

GENESIS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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September 26, 2007

Ms. Mary Levine, Acting Director
Legal Affairs
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 E. Michigan Avenue
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Former Homeless Person-Now Executive Director Supports Draft Qualified Allocation Plan (DQAP)

Dear Ms. Levine:

My name is Alvin Wigley, and I am the Executive Director of the Genesis Community Development Corporation. I have read the Draft Qualified Allocation Plan (DQAP) and a number of the letters of support and opposition to the plan. While all of the support letters were articulate and passionate, none of them that I read spoke from the perspective or experience of a homeless person, the primary target of the DQAP. Perhaps this is all the more reason that MSHDA should continue on its course with the DQAP: to give a significant voice to the homeless.

With this in mind, I am writing as a former homeless man who slept on bus stop benches and in abandoned cars. I am writing to briefly share my experience being homeless and to speak to the value, merit and benefit of the MSHDA promoting a QAP that helps lift up the "least among us".

My elevation from homelessness was due in part to a spiritual awakening. However, without decent, safe, affordable housing to live in once I "came to myself", it is very likely that I would not be in a position to exhort you to remain vigilant in your efforts to address this underserved and often misunderstood segment of our population. I believe it matters a great deal that affordable housing is available for homeless people in order to provide them with a stable living environment so they may achieve personal, spiritual, emotional, educational and occupational development. The availability of affordable housing afforded me the opportunity to progress from being a high school drop-out to eventually obtaining a Master of Urban Planning Degree.

Ms. Levine
September 26, 2007
Page Two

I trust that I am making a positive contribution to my family, as well as my community, city, state and country as a result of something as basic as a chance to live in affordable housing. I am certain that there are many people living on the streets, in shelters and are homeless throughout our state, as I once was, who would make us proud if they were given a chance by having this most basic human need met.

The Genesis Community Development Corporation commends you for your efforts to address homelessness and the shortage of affordable housing in our state through the Michigan Consolidated Plan, supporting the recommendations of the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council and other such initiatives. Most importantly, it is highly commendable that MSHDA's 2008-09 DQAP "is designed to advance the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness." In the end you are providing what I believe is perhaps an equally significant thing for the homeless, **hope!**

Please feel free to use your discretion in posting this letter on your website.

Respectfully submitted,



Alvin Wigley, MUP
Executive Director
Genesis Community Development Corporation

Cc: Mr. Michael Devos
Genesis Board of Directors
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor, State of Michigan
Bernie Gliberman, Chairman, MSHDA Board
State Representative Marsha Cheeks
State Senator Buzz Thomas